AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

If entered, this listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A method of embedding camera information and image capture related information in a digital form of an image, comprising:

receiving information on a first static camera characteristic suitable to enhance image reproduction;

receiving information on a first static camera characteristic suitable to identify a single camera that is the source of the image by embedding unique single camera characteristics;

receiving camera setting information related to a first captured digitized image;

generating an encryption key based at least in part on the first static camera characteristic;

embedding a watermark in said first captured digitized image, wherein the watermark contains at least a portion of the information on ~~the~~ at least one of said first static characteristics and at least a portion of the camera setting information related to said first captured digitized image; and

encrypting the watermark using the encryption key, wherein the first static

camera characteristic suitable to enhance image reproduction is a camera image sensor bad pixel characteristic.

canceled

3. (currently amended) The method as defined in Claim 1, wherein the first static camera characteristic suitable to enhance image reproduction is related to a sensor current value.

4. (currently amended) The method as defined in Claim 1, wherein the first static camera characteristic suitable to enhance image reproduction is related to a camera image sensor sensitivity.

5. (original) The method as defined in Claim I, wherein the camera setting information includes information related to the flash intensity used to capture the first captured digitized image.

6. (original) The method as defined in Claim 1, further comprising including information in the watermark related to the ambient light present when the image was captured by the camera.

7. (original) The method as defined in Claim 1, further comprising including at least a first dynamically measured camera characteristic in the watermark.

8. (currently amended) A digital camera system, comprising:

an imager;

a first static camera characteristic associated with the imager in regard of enhancing image reproduction;

a first static camera characteristic associated with the imager in regard of identifying a single camera that is the source of an image by embedding unique single camera characteristics;

a first variable camera setting;

a watermark generator used to embed in the form of a watermark at least one of said first static camera characteristic and said first variable camera setting information in an image captured by the camera; and

a key generator configured to generate an encryption key used to encrypt the watermark, wherein said first static camera characteristic for enhancing image reproduction is gamma information.

9. (original) The digital camera system as defined in Claim 8, wherein the watermark is visually perceptible.

10. (original) The digital camera system as defined in Claim 8, wherein the watermark is visually imperceptible.

11.. (original) The digital camera system as defined in Claim 8, wherein said first variable camera setting is a shutter speed.

12. (original) The digital camera system as defined in Claim 8, wherein said first variable camera setting is an aperture setting.

13. (original) The digital camera system as defined in Claim 8, wherein said first variable camera setting is a flash setting.

14. (currently amended) The digital camera system as defined in Claim 8, wherein said first static camera characteristic suitable to enhancing image reproduction is related to an imager current.

15. (currently amended) The digital camera system as defined in Claim 8, wherein said first static camera characteristic suitable to enhancing image reproduction is related to defective pixels associated with the imager.

16. canceled

Claims **17-25** canceled

26. (currently amended) A method of including camera information and image capture related information in association with a digital form of an image, comprising:

capturing an image:

digitizing the image;

receiving information on a first static camera characteristic suitable to enhance image reproduction, wherein said first static camera characteristic is gamma information;

a first static camera characteristic associated with the imager in regard of identifying a single camera that is the source of an image by embedding unique single

camera characteristics;

receiving camera setting information related to a first captured digitized image;

inserting in a data set associated with the digitized image at least a portion of the information on ~~the~~ at least one first static characteristic; and

transmitting the digitized image and the data set to an image processor.

27. (previously presented) The method as defined in Claim 1, wherein said unique single camera characteristics comprise an image capture device serial number.

28. (previously presented) The method as defined in Claim 1, wherein said image capture related information comprises information about the user who has taken an image.

29. (previously presented) The method as defined in Claim 28, wherein said user information comprises a user identification.

30. (previously presented) The camera system as defined in Claim 8, wherein said unique single camera characteristics comprise an image capture device serial number.

31. (previously presented) The camera system as defined in Claim 8, wherein said image capture related information comprises information about the user who has taken an image.

32. (previously presented) The camera system as defined in Claim 31, wherein said user information comprises a user identification.

33. (previously presented) The method as defined in Claim 26, wherein said unique single camera characteristics comprise an image capture device serial number.

34. (previously presented) The method as defined in Claim 26, wherein said image capture related information comprises information about the user who has taken an image.

35. (previously presented) The method as defined in Claim 34, wherein said user information comprises a user identification.